

The Library Assistant:

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THE PROGRESS OF LIBRARIANSHIP DURING THE YEAR.*

It may be that some of the less observant among us will be disposed to question whether there has been any appreciable progress in librarianship during the twelve months ending with June, 1907, but I have no hesitation in saying that if we take a wide and careful survey of all that has been either just commenced or wholly accomplished we shall come to the conclusion that advances have been made. True, they may not be revolutionary or even very startling, but nevertheless, the fact remains that the profession has gone forward; certain definite steps have been taken, and altogether we are in a better and stronger position than we were a year ago. It must be borne in mind, however, that if it is true that the *profession* has progressed it is equally true that the *Public Library movement* has received something of a set-back, at least in London. At the last municipal election a party which for the most part is antagonistic to the movement was returned with a large majority in almost every Borough, with the consequence that in many quarters the work has been considerably hampered. But I do not think we need be very seriously concerned at this, because the opposition is not likely to be of long duration. As soon as the new party has had sufficient experience to see the good being accomplished by our public libraries, then it will be as eager as any to push forward and develop these institutions. After all, this opposition may not be altogether without benefits; it may cause some to look more closely into their work, and enquire diligently whether they are doing all that can be done to deserve support, and it is not unreasonable to suppose that in after years we may come to regard the antagonism at present rife as having been a wholesome corrective.

Public Libraries Bill.—The first item of importance is the new Public Libraries Bill now awaiting a second reading, of which we all hope so much. It is quite a short Bill, but if it

* Notes of an Address prepared for the Twelfth Annual Meeting of the L.A.A. by Mr. W. Benson Thorne, Chairman of the Association.

ever becomes law it will mean a very great deal to us, probably more than we at present realize. Its four main provisions are:—(1) Abolition of the rate limitation; (2) County Councils to be created the library authority; (3) Regulation of the rating of libraries; (4) Expenditure on lectures to be legalised. So little it looks on paper, but so much it means to us all. There is no space here to dwell at length on what may happen if the Bill goes through, but all will do well to ponder over the developments possible if such ever happens. In some respects the situation might possibly become quite serious for many assistants; with an unlimited income higher salaries can be offered, and for higher salaries most naturally the best qualified men will be required, and it is within the bounds of practical politics to conceive that only those duly certificated will be selected to fill any post above that of a mere counter-boy. This probability is over-looked by the majority I believe; they see only the glorious reality of increased salaries, and forget that far greater ability will be required in return. This is only one of many similar points which occur to me, and consequently it behoves every assistant to take all the advantage he can of the opportunities now offered to qualify himself, so that he may be ready to respond to the call for capable men when rate limits are no more, and when County Councils are the Library authority.

Library Literature.—The past year has witnessed the publication of several valuable works of which the following are the most notable, viz. :—

“Subject Classification,” by Jas. Duff Brown.

“Manual of Descriptive Annotation,” by Ernest A. Savage.

“A Classification of Library Economy and Office Papers,” by L. Stanley Jast.

“Public Libraries: a treatise on their design, construction and fittings,” by A. L. Champneys.

The production of the first removes the reproach that no adequate scheme of classification has ever been compiled in England, and if only for that the author is entitled to our gratitude, but when the scheme combines many qualities which go to make a library tool of the utmost utility and service, such as Mr. Brown's, then the author deserves all the praise that can be bestowed upon him. The second work we are glad to think is from the hand of a former member of this Association, and also of its Executive. Mr. Savage, as a Committee-man, was ever zealous for the progress of the Association, and we rejoice that one who was so recently in our ranks has produced so sound and satisfactory a piece of work. Mr. Savage is at once an expert in the art of catalogue annotation,

and an able exponent of its principles. Mr. Jast's book is a practical demonstration of the extraordinary number of divisions into which an apparently small subject may be broken up, and for those who like a classified arrangement of their office papers there can be no question that Mr. Jast's scheme will amply meet their requirements. The last book of the four has a special significance in that it is a book on public libraries by a man who is not a librarian. It is a definite treatise on the construction, design and fitting of public library buildings by an architect who has devoted particular study to the subject. This book, also, is a sign of the times that librarianship is progressing.

New Libraries.—During the year London has witnessed the opening of libraries in Islington, Lambeth and St. Pancras, whilst in Hackney the foundation-stone of a new building has been laid. It is worthy of note that with the exception of Lambeth neither of these Boroughs has before possessed libraries, and at the present moment only two of the Metropolitan Boroughs, Marylebone and Paddington, are without these institutions. In Islington and Lambeth, at the North Branch and Herne Hill Libraries respectively, noteworthy advances in library planning have been carried into effect, and these particular buildings may be said to be the last word on the subject for the time being. In Islington the newsroom has been done away with, and we wait with interest to see what the result of this new departure will be.

Library Enterprise.—In the domain of practical library administration a number of forward movements have been made. Lack of space, as well as personal knowledge, prevent me referring to them all, but certain outstanding items deserve attention. Primarily mention must be made of the Co-operative Exhibition of the Methods of Book-Production. The exhibition in itself is a most excellent one, but what is even more worthy of notice is the co-operation among librarians and others which has made its existence possible. The whole thing is due, I believe, to the initiative of another former member of the L.A.A.—Mr. Alex. J. Philip, Chief Librarian of Gravesend—to whom great credit is due. The librarians of Woolwich, Brentford, Folkestone and Erith have entered into the scheme, and the exhibition is now making the rounds of the libraries just mentioned. That this is but a beginning in co-operative schemes is a consummation devoutly to be wished, as by this method alone can any great strides in library practice be made. Lectures having become recognised features in many libraries, librarians have risen to the demands, and many efficient lecturers are numbered among our ranks. In

this respect it is pleasant to record that several interchanges of lectures have been arranged, and there does not seem any reason why this practice should not be developed. Other items worthy of mark are the "privilege issues" at local lectures as carried out at Croydon, and the continued development of work with children, and here special reference should be made to the very excellent juvenile catalogues produced by Mr. H. G. T. Cannons at Finsbury, and Mr. G. E. Roebuck at Stepney. There is also the increased attention being paid to the intelligent annotation of catalogue entries, whilst exact classification is being more and more seriously studied.

Recognition of the Profession by Other Bodies.—Although it may not be generally known, especially among assistants, conferences organized by the L.C.C. have been held during the year between librarians and school-officials with a view to a closer co-ordination of the work of the libraries with that of the schools; further the L.C.C. has accepted the assistance of the Library Association in the matter of selecting books suitable for prizes. A conference has also been held between the National Home Reading Union and certain prominent librarians, with the result that a Joint Committee was formed. The outcome of this Committee's cogitations is expected to be a more liberal recognition of the public library's limits on the part of the N.H.R.U., and an increase in the joint work as a consequence. There is another Society whose acquaintance librarians may profitably cultivate, but of which little has yet been heard in this connection. I refer to the Worker's Educational Association. This Association was founded in 1903, and its object is to promote the higher education of working people, primarily by the extension of University teaching, also by (1) assistance in the development of an efficient school continuation system, (2) the assistance of working class efforts of a specifically educational character, and (3) the co-ordination of popular educational effort. It will be seen how readily these objects lend themselves to sympathetic co-operation with the public library, and I venture to think much good might come of it.

The Education of the Assistant.—At the Library Association Conference last Autumn two papers of profound interest to assistants were read—one by Mr. H. D. Roberts, the other by Mr. E. A. Baker, M.A. It is to the latter that I wish to make special reference. In this paper Mr. Baker sketched what he considered to be something approaching his ideal of a professional examination in librarianship, and outlined a test far more severe than the one existing which he proposed should be gradually brought into operation. It is not my intention

to offer any criticism so late in the day; all I desire to do is to point out to the assistant the significance of the proposals contained in the paper, as showing that the tendency will be not to simplify the examinations but rather to make them more difficult as time goes on, before a qualifying diploma can be secured. In a calling like that of modern librarianship, which is practically only in its infancy, I suppose it is but natural that examinations should increase in severity, and the moral for the present-day assistant is to qualify as soon as possible if he wishes to escape the higher demands which are bound to be made in the future. It is gratifying to find that 175 candidates sat for one or more sections of the examination in May last, as compared with 108 in the previous year. The numbers have steadily grown larger, and perhaps the L.A.A. may not unjustly take credit to itself for having had some influence in bringing about this desirable state of affairs.

The present position of the average assistant is on the whole undoubtedly better than it ever was before. Methods of administration are becoming more systematised, business principles are being more generally introduced with the result that the conditions prevailing are gradually being improved, and fewer assistants have now to complain of long hours and small pay. The question of hours is of course a delicate one, and in many libraries considerable changes could be made which, whilst allowing the staff a better time-sheet, would not be found to interfere with the ordinary routine of the establishment. A whole morning or afternoon off duty at a stretch is more beneficial than two hours for dinner and two hours for tea, and arrangements of this nature will frequently be found possible to the great advantage of the assistant. Regarding salaries I venture to believe, too, that higher rates than formerly now exist; that everyone receives adequate remuneration, I do not for a moment hold, but it does seem to me that salaries generally are fairer. If the new Bill becomes law we shall be entitled to look for recognized scales and uniform hours as well.

As to prospects, I am afraid I must strike a pessimistic note. A large proportion of the assistants now employed in our libraries cannot hope to attain to very high positions. Chief librarianships of any consequence are few and far between, and do not change very frequently. True, new libraries are continually springing into existence, but the supply is far larger than the demand. The future, however, lies almost solely in our own hands; from among the assistants of the present must be selected the librarians who are to come, therefore, in exactly that proportion we now strive to advance the profession, so

shall we be rewarded in our later days. I fear a number of assistants do not realize this; they seem to have some vague kind of idea that libraries will continue and somehow develop, but that the movement can be pushed on by their own individual efforts does not appear to strike them. It is the old story of "Nothing succeeds like success," and for proof of this we have only to look around and observe that the public libraries which are the most successful are those which have the most enterprising staffs. Multiply this thought a hundred-fold, so that every library assistant is filled with zeal for the success of his own library, eager that it shall be of the greatest possible service to its public, anxious that the work shall not only grow larger but also better, and we should speedily find all opposition to these institutions disappearing, and a desire on the part of the legislature to remove all obstacles to their progress. I would sincerely urge you to consider this aspect of the question for I feel quite sure that our progress rests very largely with ourselves, and not less sure am I that the best qualified and most enthusiastic men will rise to the highest positions. With these words I will conclude. Much, very much more might have been said—a number of other items deserve referring to, such as the need for some sort of code of professional etiquette, the growing demand for further technical manuals, and the desirability for closer relationships between neighbouring Boroughs, but I think I have said sufficient to convince you that librarianship *has* progressed, and that we have ample evidence for believing that still further progress will be made at a probably faster rate in the near future. In spite of the pessimistic note struck just now the outlook is not a gloomy one for the profession generally, and there is the new Bill shining like a star of hope on the horizon.

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION EXAMINATION, 1907.

Pass List.

(Class 1—with honours; Class 2—with merit; Class 3—pass.)

Section 1.—LITERARY HISTORY (9 candidates).

Class 1—

James Ormerod, Public Library, Nelson.

Class 2—

*Miss Edith Lea, Public Library, Wigan.

T. E. Turnbull, Public Libraries, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Class 3—

- *F. Dallimore, Public Library, Wimbledon.
- W. H. Morgan, Public Libraries, Hammersmith.
- *W. Peplow, Public Libraries, Croydon.

Section 2.—BIBLIOGRAPHY (14 candidates).

*Class 1: nil. Class 2: nil.**Class 3—*

- Miss Aileen MacMahon, Toynbee Hall Library, E.
- Miss Muirhead, London School of Economics, W.C.
- *W. H. Parker, Public Libraries, Woolwich.
- *W. Peplow, Public Libraries, Croydon.

Section 3.—CLASSIFICATION (13 candidates).

*Class 1: nil. Class 2: nil.**Class 3—*

- *T. W. Huck, Public Library, Darlington.
- Miss Mary Muirhead, 26 Stoke Newington Common, N.

Section 5.—LIBRARY HISTORY AND ORGANISATION
(54 candidates).*Class 1: nil.**Class 2—*

- *John Barr, Jun., Public Libraries, Glasgow.
- *J. D. Young, Public Library, Greenwich.

Class 3—

- *E. J. Bell, Public Libraries, Fulham.
- *Miss O. E. Clarke, A.A.(Oxon.), Public Libraries, Islington.
- *R. Cooper, Public Libraries, Battersea.
- K. W. Cotton, Public Libraries, Hampstead.
- *F. W. Cudlip, Bishopsgate Institute, E.C.
- *J. C. Darby, Bishopsgate Institute, E.C.
- W. C. Farnell, Public Library, Walsall.
- *E. Fletcher, Public Library, St. George-in-the-East.
- *H. Fostall, Public Libraries, Bromley, Kent.
- B. J. Frost, Public Libraries, East Ham.
- Miss Ethel Gerard, Public Library, Worthing.
- W. Graham, Public Library, Gateshead.
- *A. F. Hatcher, Public Libraries, Bolton.
- *T. W. Huck, Public Library, Darlington.
- *C. P. Jackson, Public Libraries, Woolwich.
- *J. V. Jacobs, Public Library, Richmond.
- *S. W. Kitchenner, Public Libraries, Hornsey.
- A. C. McCombe, Public Libraries, East Ham.
- E. Mayhew, Public Libraries, Hammersmith.
- *R. L. Peacock, Public Libraries, Croydon.

- *F. G. S. Port, Public Libraries, Camberwell.
- *H. W. Poulter, Public Library, Walthamstow.
- *T. W. Powell, Public Library, Kingston-upon-Thames.
- *C. E. Thomas, Bishopsgate Institute, E.C.
- *R. Wright, Public Libraries, Croydon.
- *D. S. Young, Public Libraries, East Ham.

* Member of the Library Assistants' Association.

The results in Sections 4 and 6 have not yet been announced.

SUGGESTED SUMMER SCHOOL FOR 1908.

Plan of Library Association.

The most hopeful prophecy for the educational betterment of library assistants who are unable to avail themselves of the classes at the London School of Economics is outlined below. It proposes to do away with the desultory lectures hitherto given at Summer Schools and to provide courses almost identical with those given to London assistants. Its particular features are the preliminary courses of reading to be set for each student—an invaluable and long-needed innovation—and the final class examination by which the student can in some way estimate his chances in the L.A. Examination itself. This is an immense improvement on previous schemes, and we hope it will receive due recognition from members. The provincial assistant has pleaded long and not without reason for educational opportunities. His plea has been heard, and now a practical step towards the solution of his trouble has been devised. It is impossible to have classes in Library Economics all over the country, and these classes to be held in London are the best way out of the difficulty. They are at a convenient time of the year; the provincial assistant has plenty of time to resolve whether he can or cannot attend. In fact, his educational salvation is now in his own hands.

The following report on a revived Summer School on new lines has been approved by the Library Association Council, and a School on the lines suggested is contemplated for 1908:—

1. We beg to report as follows on the subject of a Summer School:—
2. We are clear that a Summer School on the old lines is no longer needed. But we are of opinion that a Summer School on the lines briefly indicated below would serve a useful purpose, by enabling students in the country who can come up to London for a week to have the advantage of personal tuition, which must necessarily be better than tuition by correspondence. There would, however, be nothing to prevent, and there might be an advantage in, some students taking out both a correspondence class and a Summer School course in the same subject.

3. Our idea is that the Summer School should consist of courses of lectures, rather than isolated addresses, either the same as or abbreviated from the lectures given at the London School of Economics, by, if possible, the same lecturers. If the School were to extend over ten working days, it is clear that the courses at the School of Economics might be repeated in their entirety; but if, as is probable, at any rate at first, the School is limited to six working days, the courses would need to be delivered in an abbreviated form. In that case it would be preferable, we think, rather to select the topics and treat these with reasonable fulness than to bring in every topic dealt with in the complete courses and abbreviate all round.

4. We think that all the five subjects in which teaching is given, should, if possible, be announced for each Summer School; only those courses being actually arranged for which a sufficient number of names are entered.

5. The times of the lectures might be from 10 to 11.30 and 11.45 to 1.15 in the morning; and from 2.15 to 3.45 and 4 to 5.30 in the afternoon, or thereabouts; the evenings being left free, to be utilised for visits to libraries and social foregatherings.

6. No student could of course take all the lectures, nor is it desirable that he should.

7. The best time to hold the School would probably be in the early part of June.

8. Assuming that the School was held in June, programmes giving the subjects of the lectures, should be issued by the beginning of February, and names of intending students might be received up to March 31st. Every student who sends up his name should enclose the fee, which would be returned in full if the course were not ultimately given.

9. To every student who signifies his intention to attend, a course of preliminary reading, prepared by the lecturer, should be sent.

10. It would be possible, but not, we think, desirable, to set home exercises on the lectures; but every student should be encouraged to take notes, and ask questions. This should be done at a class held at the conclusion of each lecture; or the last half-hour might be utilised for exercises, at the discretion of the lecturer.

11. A class examination on the whole of each course might be held at the conclusion of the School; in this case one whole day would be needed, and the number of lectures would be limited to five.

12. *We recommend* that an attempt should be made next year to ascertain what support is likely to be accorded to a Summer School on the above lines, by issuing a programme and sending it to every Public Library Authority, as well as by announcing it in the "Record," and other professional journals.

13. *We also recommend* that the School of Economics be approached with a view to obtaining its co-operation.

(Signed) L. STANLEY JAST.
JOHN McKILLOP.

THE L.A.A. VISIT TO BRIGHTON.

No greater tribute could be paid to the high esteem in which Mr. H. D. Roberts is held among library assistants than the large and representative gathering at Brighton on Wednesday, July 3rd. In spite of a peculiar grudge borne by the Clerk of the Weather no less than seventy members and friends were received on Brighton Station platform by Messrs. Law, Male, Piper and other members of the Libraries staff. The day was dull with frequent showers, but only in this respect was

there an element of dullness in the proceedings. Mr. Roberts, with the great thoughtfulness and thoroughness which mark everything he does, had prepared a tastefully-printed souvenir programme, which he had sent to every person attending. This had a facade view of the Library, Art Gallery and Museum building on the face, and another of the Dome on the back, and minutely detailed all the pleasures that could possibly be crowded into an afternoon and evening. The members were received by Mr. Roberts in his office, and afterwards proceeded to make a thorough examination of the institution. The Library itself is remarkable from every point of view; from the outside one experienced the impression that a bit of India had descended accidentally into an extremely occidental town, and from the inside the impression was of a bewildering series of magnificent apartments that ran in all directions from a main corridor. After a brief inspection this last impression was replaced by the more sober one that here on one side was a finely arranged set of rooms devoted to library purposes, and on the other were splendid halls devoted to picture and museum collections.

The Lending Library was first visited. This has a department—a veritable triumph in economy of space—on the radiating, open-shelf principle, devoted to works of non-fiction, and another worked by the indicator for fiction. From the gallery of this library Mr. Roberts welcomed the Association in the name of himself and staff, pointing out the features specially to be noted, and inviting the members to make friends with the staff, and under their guidance to make a thorough examination of the institution. This was done with a right good will, and the whole place was in the nature of a revelation to many. Some whose inclinations were towards art spent an agreeable half-an-hour in the picture galleries examining the treasures of which Brighton possesses a good store, while others found pleasure in viewing the admirable arrangement of the museum.

The time for the Mayor's reception and for tea seemed to come all too soon, but after all it was a welcome break to get into the two pleasantly decorated rooms sumptuously laid out for tea. The rooms were arranged with separate tables to accommodate about eight guests, and if at one table the proportion of ladies to gentlemen was six to two, it was balanced by a proportion of one lady to seven gentlemen at another. The Mayor in a racy speech congratulated assistants upon the existence of the L.A.A., and remarked upon the good work it was doing. He also had the pleasure of opening an exhibition of early printed books which Mr. Roberts had made special efforts to get ready for the day of the visit. This exhibition illustrates the art of printing between 1462 and 1500, and includes a number of books not in the British Museum or the Bodleian Library.

A vote of thanks to the Mayor and Mayoress for their attendance was proposed by Councillor Yates (Chairman of the General Committee), seconded by Mr. A. O. Jennings (Chairman of the Library Committee), and carried by acclamation. Mr. W. B. Thorne proposed a vote of thanks to the Brighton authorities for their hospitable reception, drawing special attention to the many past services of Mr. Roberts to the L.A.A. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sayers and carried unanimously. Mr. Roberts responded, and expressed his pleasure that he was able to invite the Association to Brighton, and that so many had been able to attend. After a short speech by Mr. Law, the Sub-Librarian, and a response by the Mayor to the vote of thanks, members were left free to follow their own devices, and gladly availed themselves of the privilege of visiting the Pavilion, Aquarium, Booth Museum, etc., all of which were thrown open to them upon production of the souvenir programme. It was a treat to get some of the London cobwebs blown away by the sea breeze, and if the intervals of rain did tend to damp clothing, it could not succeed in spoiling

the exceedingly pleasant recollections which members carried away when, to their regret, the train moved out of Brighton Station, startled, no doubt (if a train can be startled) by the hearty cheers given to Mr. Roberts, who was on the platform.

A permanent reminder of the visit consisted of picture post-cards, catalogues of the exhibition of early printed books, and copies of the library magazine and the annual report, which were generously distributed. Mr. Roberts also, with kindly forethought, intimated his intention to send to each member a copy of a local paper containing an account of the day's proceedings.

LECTURES IN LITERARY HISTORY.

The Education Committee of the Library Association have made arrangements with the Principal and the Governors of King's College, London, for the admission of candidates for the Library Association examinations in librarianship to courses of lectures in English Literary History at the reduced fee, provided sufficient entries are made for the Michaelmas (October-December) and the Lent (January-March) terms during the ensuing winter. No authoritative statement as to the precise amount can yet be made, but it will probably be half-a-guinea instead of a guinea the course. Courses of lectures are held at the College on several periods of literature, and on other literatures besides English, all of them suitable for students of librarianship; but the special course the Committee have in view is the one (on Thursdays, 7-8 p.m.) dealing with the period 1750-1850, to correspond with which the Committee will probably alter the period set for the examination in 1908. Professor Gollancz, who together with the Principal, is showing much interest and sympathy for the needs of library students, will endeavour to make the course specially suited for them by introducing the bibliographical and other features, a knowledge of which is demanded by the L.A. Syllabus.

This generous concession will obviously be a great boon to library assistants, who have long been asking for some course of instruction in Literary History, and it will in many ways be an immense advantage to be brought into touch with another branch of the University of London, in addition to the link with the London School of Economics.

Intending students may obtain forms of entry from Mr. Ernest A. Baker, M.A., Hon. Secretary of the Education Committee, Whitcomb House, Whitcomb Street, W.C. These should be obtained and filled in immediately in order that a sufficient number of entries may be guaranteed to the authorities of King's College.

Referring to the above lectures Mr. Baker writes:—"Up to the present, in spite of a letter urging students to send in their names, I have not received anything like the number that was hoped for. The authorities of King's College now request that I should state not later than September how many of our students are coming to these lectures. The L.A.A. has recently passed a resolution asking for such lectures, and it has been the complaint for years that no special instruction was available in this branch of the L.A. curriculum. It is therefore only reasonable to expect that a handsome response would be forthcoming to such an acceptable offer from a body like King's College."

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of "The Library Assistant."

Sir,—In company with several other library assistants, I have often felt very dissatisfied with the very meagre reports of the papers read before the monthly meetings of the L.A.A. Even of some of the most useful and interesting scarcely more than a brief synopsis is given. I

have just received the July number of the "Assistant," and the report of Mr. Baker's paper is decidedly unsatisfying, only a brief outline being given of what must have been a most interesting paper.

Could not the papers be printed in full and the discussions, which are often quite apart from the point, left out? The meaning and point of a paper is often vague, and sometimes quite obscure, when so much condensed. If instead of condensing the paper, the Hon. Secretary's monthly survey was reduced, the space gained would be used to better value.

G.

[Mr. Baker did not read a paper at the Woolwich meeting, but gave an address from notes, and the report published last month was passed by him. In cases where, owing to exigencies of space, it is necessary to abridge papers, the work is most carefully done, and nothing essential is deleted. We do not think our correspondent's suggestion to omit the reports of the discussions will meet with much support. A paper only expresses the views of the reader; the discussion draws forth the views of many persons, and surely this is of value. The Monthly Survey is a most popular feature, as is proved by the letters received by the Editor since its inception.—EDITOR.]

Hospitality to Provincial Members.

Sir,—The suggestion contained in the letter of "A Provincial" is one that should be seriously considered by those metropolitan members who are in a position to offer accommodation to any of our provincial colleagues visiting London to attend meetings of the L.A.A. It opens up the possibility of closer relationship with assistants in the provinces, larger attendances at our meetings, and a better understanding all round.

I, for one, shall be delighted to place a room at the disposal of any provincial member of the L.A.A. who journeys to London to attend a meeting, and I hope many of my friends in the metropolis will do likewise.

May I send a ticket for our next Annual Dinner, to be held in November, to "A Provincial"!

W. GEO. CHAMBERS.

Sir,—I think "A Provincial's" suggestion in your last issue a most admirable one, and for any of our special events I shall be happy to offer hospitality to one (or two by sharing a room) of our provincial members.

LONDONER.

L.A.A. CRICKET MATCH.

The return cricket match between Assistants north of the Thames and those of the south will be played at Regent's Park on **Wednesday, August 28th**, at 3.30 p.m. Members desiring to play should send in their names to Mr. Wm. A. Peplow, Central Library, Croydon, on or before the 14th August. This match, which has now fairly established itself as a regular fixture, provides an excellent opportunity for London assistants to spend an afternoon together, and we hope that many members, whether players or not, will be present.

APPOINTMENTS.

*HENDERSON, Mr. Herbert, Senior Assistant, Liverpool Lyceum Library, to be Senior Assistant, Walthamstow.

[The other selected candidates were Messrs. Kellett (Westminster), *Piper (Brighton), *Vale (Stepney), and *Wakeman (Kidderminster).]

*YOUNG, Mr. J. D., Sub-Librarian, Greenwich, to be Librarian-in-charge of the London Street Branch, Greenwich.

*Member L.A.A.